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The *UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR*, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

By **Henry Stonecastle**, of *Lincoln's-Inn, Esq;*

SATURDAY May 15, 1742.

To Mr. STONECASTLE.

Sapere aude. HOR.

SIR,

HE Concern I have for a particular Friend has occasion'd this Letter; the Contents of it may be of publick Service, which is sufficient Apology to tell you, that nothing has given me so much Concern a great while as the Behaviour of *Eugenio*: He has Sense, Wit, and a hundred good Qualities; but they are all obscur'd and render'd useless to himself and the World, by a certain Weakness and Impotence of Mind. Though he can discourse and reason upon any Subject as well as most Men, yet he has not Power to exert that Reason, and make it appear in *Action*: He can lay down excellent Rules for his own Conduct in Life, but wants Resolution to put them *Practice*. In short, he can talk like a wise Man, and acts like a mad one. Your Readers, perhaps, may imagine that I am going to give them the Character of a young Rake, who is hurried into a thousand Extravagancies by strong Passions and violent Appetites; but the Person I am speaking of has no such unruly Passions; he has a natural Love for *Virtue*, and is vicious contrary to his Inclination. The Misfortune is, *Eugenio* is too sensible of Ridicule, and cannot bear the least Reproach upon account of his Virtue or Piety, though from the most Worthless of Mankind. He has, unlike other young Fellows, too mean an Opinion of his own Understanding, and consequently pays too great a Deference to that of others. I have for some Time made it my Business to observe upon him, and study his Distemper; and I find these to be the Causes from whence proceed all his Irregularities. He follows the Multitude, and is carried down the Stream of Vice, not having Courage to resist the Torrent to follow the good Disposition of his own Mind, and be singularly virtuous. If at any Time he reflects within himself upon the Folly of such a Way of Life, and shews an Inclination to reform, his Companions, as they know his weak Side, can easily put him out of Countenance by laughing at his unfashionable Notions, and by that Means bring him to what they please: They have him so entirely in their Power, that I am afraid all my Advice, and Endeavours to rescue him out of their Hands, will signify nothing. Alas! they have almost rooted out those generous Principles which his good Father so carefully implanted in him, and which formerly gave Hopes of his being one Day an Honour to his Family. He is now taught to be sportingly witty upon the wise Maxims he us'd to revere, and to give himself up to a general loose Conduct, without any Regard even to the common Rules of Decency. He drinks, swears, fights, wenches, and is disobedient to the Laws of God, his King and Country, merely to comply with the Humours of a few wicked, rascally Fellows, and be reckon'd by them a Man of Spirit. An unhappy Ambition to distinguish himself according to their Notions of Merit, has destroy'd that Modesty, once so remarkably becoming in him, and made him impudent, pert and insolent. He comes into a publick Place, cocks his Hat, and stares full in Peoples Faces; makes ill-natur'd Observations upon the whole Company, and says things aloud that must shock any Man of Sobriety and a Sense of Religion. I remember the Time when he us'd to be complaisant to me, and respect me as his Father's Friend; but he now takes the Liberty to sneer at me too as I pass by, and ridicule my Dress and Figure. What shall I do with him?——I hope he is not irreclaimable:——If he is not——I have thought of a Method how to manage him, and open his Eyes to his own Imprudence. As it is almost impossible to know *Sophronia* without loving her, I intend to introduce him into her Company, and don't doubt but she will soon make a Reformation in him. I will acquaint my Readers what Effect her Conversation has upon him.

In the mean time it is a melancholy Thing to consider how many promising Youths I have seen corrupted in the same manner as *Eugenio*, by those Monsters of Iniquity who make it their Business to seduce them: These Men use a great many Artifices to accomplish their Designs, and take care to get perfectly well acquainted with the Disposition of the Person whom they intend to practise upon: They besiege like wary Generals, being very diligent in seeking out the weakest Part of the Town; and when they have once inform'd themselves in this Particular, they generally meet with Success in the Attack. As there is always in an ingenuous Mind a modest Diffidence of itself, they take Advantage of that to banter him out of any Sentiments of Honour he might have entertain'd, and persuade him to regard it only as an empty Name. If he speaks of any thing relating to Religion with Seriousness and Respect, he is rallied unmercifully, and cannot long stand out against so much Wit and Satire:

All higher Knowledge in their Presence falls
Degraded, Wisdom in Discourse with them
Loses its Power, and like Folly shews.

When they have gone thus far, they look upon him as their own; and by drowning his Senses in a continual Round of Debaucheries, lead him into what villainous Schemes and Degrees of Wickedness they think fit.

Since then so many Traps are laid to ensnare our Youth, it is absolutely necessary, before they come abroad into the World, that their Virtue should be well grounded, and accompanied with a good Resolution; that they should be taught to set a just Value upon themselves, and to be asham'd of nothing but what is really shameful. *Epictetus* has given much the same Advice to his Disciples: *If*, says he, *you have a Mind to make any Proficiency in Philosophy, you must first of all be thoroughly convinc'd of the Excellence of my Rules, and resolve to observe them upon all Occasions. You must expect to be laugh'd at and derided by the Vulgar, but regard not their Opinion of you; think only how you may act agreeably to the Dictates of your own Reason and Conscience. Be good and wise, that is sufficient; desire not the Applauses of the Multitude.* But this is too hard a Lesson for most People. As Man is made for Society, he naturally endeavours to be agreeable to those with whom he converses; and as the Generality of Mankind are more inclin'd to Vice than Virtue, he will comply with their Taste rather than lose their Favour. From this Principle most of the Extravagancies that we often see Men of the best Sense guilty of, may be accounted for; from hence too proceeds that Variety of Folly which appears in the Actions of the more unthinking Part of the World. These poor Creatures are betray'd into Faults merely through Want of Thought; whereas those are obliged to do Violence to themselves, and put a Stop to their own Reflections, in order to commit them: What a mean, abject Spirit is this! to lower our Understandings, and subject them to the Caprices of the senseless and stupidly vicious! to suppress our Reason for fear of their Censure, and not dare to be wise, because it is not their Will or Interest that we should be so! Can an *Englishman*, a Lover of Liberty in other Respects, thus submit to have his very Mind enslav'd? It is owing, in a great Measure, to this Cowardice, that Vice has so prevailed among us in all Ages: Vice would soon give way, had Virtue the Courage to shew herself in her native Beauty. We have a remarkable Instance of this in antient History.

Before *Socrates* appear'd publickly at *Athens* as a Philosopher, the *Athenians*, a gay, lively People, entirely given up to their Pleasures, could not bear the Restraints of Philosophy, and employ'd all their Wit in ridiculing the Professors of it, which discouraged a great many from attempting it; but he, not in the least disconcerted by their Ralleries and Insults, persisted in his good Designs, and so influenced them by his admirable Life and Conversation, as to inspire them with a Desire of imitating him, and make them passionately fond of what they had before despised.

There is now in my Eye a Gentleman who, I dare say, will do a great deal of Good by his Example, and cause a considerable Change in the Behaviour of several young Fellows in this Town. I observe, with much Pleasure, that they begin to mimick him already in little Accomplishments, which I hope will bring them by Degrees to relish his greater Excellencies. His Manners are so agreeable, his Virtue sits so easy upon him, and he knows so well how to defend it, that I may apply to him what *Indiana* in the *Conscious Lovers* says of her Admirer: *The Fools that laugh at Mr.* Bevil *will but make themselves more ridiculous.*

W. L.

To the UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR.

Mr. SPEC,

I Have been very lately pleas'd to find you have taken on you another Province, I mean that of being an Intelligencer, and giving us different News, and in a different Manner from that we see in the publick Papers. If you, like your Predecessor, are an Adept in the occult Sciences, you may employ some secret Intelligencers which will furnish you with Variety of Articles: However I must give you this Hint, that I would not have them all turn on Politicks, but the Actions and Business of the Gallant and Literary World, as well as those of Statesmen and Politicians. ——I have sent an Article as a Hint, and am

Yours, L.

I am oblig'd to this Correspondent, and have made the following Use of his Hint.

The DOMESTICK INTELLIGENCER.

From Lady BETTY MODISH's *Tea-Table.*

IT is my Custom, after I have follow'd my Studies pretty close, to make a Visit, by way of Relaxation, to such of my Friends and Acquaintance, of both Sexes, as I judge most convenient. I thought it proper, this Afternoon, to wait upon Lady *Betty Modish*, who does me the Honour to admit me at any Time, and use me with particular Civility. As she keeps a great deal of Company, I frequently pick up Matter for Speculation there, and have to-day met with a Character which extremely pleas'd me. Upon entering the Room I saw a Circle of very well-dress'd Gentlemen and Ladies, and, after the usual Forms of Salutation, sat down amongst them. The Conversation run upon indifferent Things, and was for some time of that Kind which is not improperly call'd *insipid*. The

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Men, however, took all Opportunities to display their Parts, and ingratiate themselves with Ladies, by several little Witticisms and Compliments. This was the State of Affairs when Sir *John Evergreen* came in: He is about Sixty, but has none of that Moroseness and Austerity generally seen in Persons of that Age; on the contrary, he has all the good Humour and Gaiety of Five and twenty, temper'd with a Prudence, which is drawn from Experience, and which renders him more engaging: He enlivens the Coversation where-ever he goes; all the young People are fond of being with him; his Presence gives them no Uneasiness or Constraint; they may express themselves with all imaginable Freedom before him, let them only confine their Discourse within the Bounds of good Manners. They respect and love him as a wise Friend, and think themselves happy if they can gain his Esteem. Lady *Betty* receiv'd him with a Smile, and I could perceive in the Faces of every one in the Room, that they spoke the Truth, when they told him they were glad to see him. Indeed it was no Wonder; for he talk'd with so much good Sense, good Nature and Chearfulness, that I own I never pass'd any Time more to my Satisfaction. He did not, as most other old Fellows do, wrinkle up his Forehead, put on an Air of great Wisdom, and reproach us with our Faults, or trouble us with his Advice upon every Occasion; he did not look with a senseless Severity upon the common Diversions of Life, nor censure us for following them, because he himself was unfit for them; he did not always insist upon serious Subjects; but knew how to adapt his Discourse to our Inclinations, and made us more pleas'd with him, by making us more pleas'd with ourselves. Three Hours pass'd away the most delightfully that could be; and I am now more convinc'd than ever, That if Age is not agreeable to Youth, it is entirely the Fault of the former.

Thursday. St. James's Coffee-house.

A Courier is said to have arriv'd last Night at the Secretary's-Office with Dispatches of great Importance. Certain it is, that a M——r of S—e said to-day, at Court, That some very good News was receiv'd, which the Publick would soon know.——*The Adepts in Politicks all agree that it must relate to Affairs in* Germany: *Some think that his* Pr—ss—n Majesty *is come over to the* Queen of Hungary: *Others have other Sentiments.*——Whatever the Secret is a little Patience will make it publick.

Friday. Dick's, Temple-Bar.

The following Copy of Verses were read last Night in this Place, and met with Approbation.

On Miss CHIARA POSTERLA'S *Singing, in* Trinity-College Hall.

NAture has giv'n all Creatures Sense
To stand upon their own Defence:
Man can, with various Weapons, fight;
The Horse can kick, the Dog can bite;
But (let *Anacreon* be believ'd)
What is a Wound from these receiv'd,
To that the heedless Lover feels
When with one Glance *Chiara* kills?
A Form so exquisitely fair,
So soft, so negligent an Air,
Could *Cleopatra* ever boast,
Tho' to gain *Her* a World was lost.
But when the smooth *Italian* Song
Trembles mellifluous from her Tongue,
Smother the lurking Seeds of Love,
Lest this sweet *Rose* a *Thorn* should prove *:
Not half so sweet could *Orpheus* sing
To his Harp's gently-tinkling String;
Tho' ev'n the Gods from Heav'n descended,
And on his Melody attended.
If *Beauty's* Charms appear so glorious;
If *Musick* too is so victorious;
If each of these is so respected,
That for them *Worlds*, nay, *Heav'n's* rejected;
If such Regard is paid to either,
What then is due to both together?

* *Alluding to the Song she sung,* Lascia la Spina cogli la Rosa.

Monday. George's, Temple-Bar.

There is at present a Dearth of Political News, but a great deal of Theatrical: The High and Mighty Potentates of the Dramatick Empire are in Commotions, and Alliances are said to be forming Offensive and Defensive: But how their Negotiations are carrying on, or whether they will come to an open Rupture, is as impenetrable a Secret as what has been done in the S——t C——e.

Tuesday. Dick's, Temple-Bar.

Mr. *Garrick*, who plays at *Goodman's-Fields*, is grown so great a Favourite of the Publick, that whenever he performs the Theatre is crowded: As this Night he is to act at *Drury-Lane* from a generous Principle, the following Verses have been address'd to him.

To Mr. GARRICK, *on his playing at* Drury-Lane Theatre, *for the Benefit of the Widow* Harper.

OThou who every Passion can controul,
And from the Springs of Nature move the Soul,
Can make alternate Passions fall and rise,
Glad the gay Heart, or melt the swelling Eyes;
Force us to laugh when a *Valet* you're seen,
Or when a Tyrant weep a widow'd Queen.
These are but Praises to the Actor due;
But here a nobler Cause of Praise we view.
To the most generous End you turn your Art;
You stop the Widow's Tears, and glad her Heart.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Madrid, April 24. A few Days since the Court march'd some Troops to Toledo, in order to oblige the Chapter to pay the Tax of the Eighth Penny, demanded by his Majesty. Those Troops carry a Decree with them, signifying to the Prebendaries, that all those who prove refractory shall be sent in Exile to America for twenty Years.

Leghorn, April 28. The Master of a Bark that arriv'd here Yesterday reports, that they were equipping six Gallies with the utmost Diligence, in order to join the Spanish Gallies at Antibes, and escort the Infant Don Philip to Orbitello.

Olmutz, April 29. Prince Charles of Lorrain has caus'd two Burgo-masters, and some other Members of the Regency of this City, to be arrested, for not having given him more early Notice of the Retreat of the Prussians.

Marseilles, April 29. The Tunisians continuing their Insults on the King's Flag, four Gallies, two Brigantines, two Frigates of 40 Guns each, and two Bomb-Ketches, set sail eight Days ago for Tunis, in order to block up that Port.

Toulon, May 1. The Infant Don Philip set out for Antibes the 26th Instant and arriv'd there the 28th: In all Appearance his Royal Highness will stay there a few Days. The English Fleet, consisting of 28 or 30 Ships of the Line, has been cruizing these several Days past off of this Port.

From the Head Quarters of the Austrian Army at Medriz in Moravia, May 2. Yesterday Prince Charles of Lorrain made all the necessary Dispositions for securing Moravia against a new Invasion from the Enemy: His Highness order'd all the Militia of the Country to be under Arms, and to guard the Avenues and Passes on the Side of Silesia, in conjunction with some regular Troops.

This Day the Army resum'd its March and arriv'd at this Place, where the Head Quarters are fix'd. Prince Charles set out Post for Vienna; but we expect him back in four or five Days: The Object of his Journey is to concert Measures for executing a Design in which he is to be seconded by the Hungarian Troops.

Vienna, May 2. Last Week Mr. Robinson, Envoy Extraordinary from the King of Great Britain, had a Conference with the Count d'Uhlefeldt on the Resolution taken by his Britannick Majesty to send some of his Troops to Flanders. It is impossible to express the Joy which this News diffused among the Inhabitants: As soon as they were inform'd of it, they assembled before Mr. Robinson's House with loud Acclamations of Joy in honour of the British Nation. A Courier was immediately dispatch'd with this News to Hungary, in order to encourage the Noblesse of that Kingdom to exert themselves in the Queen's Defence.

Venice, May 2. Some Letters from Constantinople say that they are very much afraid of Thamas Kouli Kan's executing his Design upon Trebisond, inasmuch as they are inform'd that he is bent upon having a Port in the Black Sea, in order to keep the Tartars in Awe and prevent their molesting the Russians. The Letters add, that in order to defeat this Project, the Porte has order'd 20,000 of the Crim Tartars to be sent forthwith into Natolia. We hear that Kouli Kan has caused a Greek Physician to be burnt alive in a slow Fire, for an Attempt to poison him.

Milan, May 2. The King of Sardinia went a few Days ago from Placentia to Parma. The Piedmontese and Austrian Troops are advancing towards the Modeneze, and some of their Detachments are gone into the Ecclesiastick State in order to observe the Motions of the Spaniards.

Advices from Turin inform us, that the Court has assembled 20,000 Militia, and 10,000 regular Troops towards the Frontiers, in order to defend the Passes of the Mountains.

Ratisbon, May 10. The Veldt-Marshal Kevenhuller pretending the Bavarians have violated the Capitulation made in regard to Munich, his Excellency sent back thither a Detachment of 1500 Hussars. The Burghers being appriz'd of their coming, shut the Gates immediately, and prepar'd for their own Defence: Upon which the Commandant of the Detachment sent a Trumpeter into the Town, to declare to the Magistrates, that if they did not open the Gates he would beat them down with his Cannon and let the Hussars live at Discretion in the Castles of Nymphenbourg and Schleisheim. To avoid this, the Regency resolv'd to admit the Austrians into Munich for the second Time, upon the Footing of the first Capitulation. Count Kevenhuller, whose Head Quarters are at Schardingen, has order'd his Troops to repossess themselves of several Posts which they had abandon'd between the Inn and the Iser in the Neighbourhood of Landshut: His Excellency proposes to return towards Straubingen and attack the Allies, if he receives the Re-inforcement which he has writ to Vienna for.

Berlin, May 12. The last Advices from Bohemia say, that the King was still at Chrudin the 1st Instant, and that the Allies are to act with three Armies in that Kingdom this Year, which are to be commanded by his Majesty, the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, the Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels and the Marshal Belle-isle.

According to the last Letters from the Upper Silesia, the Troops that march'd out of Moravia under the Command of Prince Thierry of Anhalt-Dessau are encamp'd in the Plains of Troppau. This Prince having demanded of the Abbey of Heiligenberg, of the Cistertian Order, a Contribution of 50,000 Florins, agreed afterwards to abate 20,000 Florins in that Sum. In the mean time he intercepted a Letter from the Abbot to Prince Charles of Lorrain, informing his Serene Highness that he had a much greater Sum at his Service; whereupon the Prince of Anhalt sent Orders to the Abbot to pay down that Sum immediately, which, 'tis said, amounts to no less than two Millions of Florins.

IRELAND.

Dublin, May 1. Last Wednesday the Embargo was taken off Beef and Butter, since which great Quantities have been enter'd at the Custom-House for Exportation.

Last Night Alderman Gilbert King was elected Lord Mayor for the ensuing Year; and John Bradshaw and George Brazier, Esq; Sheriffs.

The Horse that are to embark from hence to England, are expected in Town next Week; and the High Constable has been to view the Inns to know how many Men and Horses each of them can accomodate, that Billets may be prepar'd for them accordingly.

At the Assizes of Tralee Theobald Butler, Esq; was try'd for killing Edward Sergerson, one of those Monsters who attempted to wreck and plunder a Ship that was driven on the Coast, and to murder the Ship's Crew, which Mr. Butler prevented, for which he was honourably acquitted. This Gentleman sav'd another Ship from being plunder'd, for which he deserves the Thanks of the Nation; and it is hoped that all Gentlemen who have Estates on our Coasts will prevent Shipwrecks, and discourage their Tenants and Labourers from attempting Villanies of this Kind.

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